

H. R. 967.

MARCH 1, 1837.

Read the first and second time, and laid upon the table.

Mr. SMITH, of Maine, from the select committee to which the subject had been referred, reported the following bill :

A BILL

Modifying the system of military instruction at West Point, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 all acts now in force authorizing the enlistment or appointment
4 of cadets in the Military Academy of the United States at West
5 Point, in the State of New York, be, and hereby are, repealed,
6 from and after the thirtieth day of June next; and all such ca-
7 dets now in the service, or under the instruction, of the United
8 States, shall be disbanded and dismissed, from and after the
9 thirtieth day of June next.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of*
2 War, under the direction of the President of the United States,
3 shall, as soon as may be after the thirtieth day of June next,
4 organize a military school of application and practice at West
5 Point, for the improvement of the officers of the army of the
6 United States in the application and practice, for military pur-
7 poses, of the several branches of elementary and theoretic sciences
8 involved in the art of war; and the Secretary of War shall ap-

9 point an officer as superintendent of said school, possessing com-
10 petent theoretical and practical qualifications to command on
11 parade; to instruct the officers constituting said school in all the
12 tactics appertaining to every branch of military service; to lec-
13 ture upon the theory and principles thereof; and to illustrate
14 the practical application of the science of mathematics, topo-
15 graphical drawing, and engineering, to the purposes of both offen-
16 sive and defensive war, including a regular course of practical
17 illustrations of artillery service, the uses of mortars and howitzers,
18 and the principles of gunnery generally; together with instruc-
19 tions, by lectures and practice, in military police, and other du-
20 ties of camp and garrison service; all which instructions it shall
21 be the duty of said superintendent to impart to said school, aided
22 by such number of assistant and subordinate officers, who shall
23 also be instructors, of competent qualifications, as the Secretary of
24 War shall deem it expedient to appoint.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That, for the purposes
2 of the practical instruction contemplated in the second section
3 of this act, the officers of the army of the United States shall
4 repair to West Point, in rotation, under such regulations, and in
5 such numbers, as the Secretary of War shall direct, with the ap-
6 probation of the President of the United States, not exceeding,
7 at any one time, one-third of the company of officers in service;
8 and to remain at said school for such time as the Secretary of
9 War shall determine, not exceeding one year in three successive

10 years. The arrangement, classification, and discipline of said
11 officers, while at said school, shall be prescribed, with reference
12 to their instruction in the duties of the corps from which they
13 have been detailed, or for which they are destined, by the su-
14 perintendent thereof, under the direction of the Secretary of
15 War; and, in the same manner, the Secretary of War shall pre-
16 scribe all necessary rules and regulations for the government of
17 said school, not inconsistent with the rules and articles of war.
18 And the President of the United States shall order, from time to
19 time, such detachments of artillery and infantry to be stationed
20 at West Point as may be deemed useful for the advancement of
21 the practical instruction and illustrations in the art of war con-
22 templated by the provisions of this act, and not inconsistent with
23 the general welfare of the army.

1 *SEC. 4. And be it further enacted,* That the salary of the
2 superintendent of said school shall be, until otherwise ordered,
3 two thousand five hundred dollars per annum; and the assistant
4 officers, who shall also be instructors of the first grade, shall re-
5 ceive for salary seventeen hundred dollars each per annum; and,
6 if a second grade of assistant officers, being also instructors, shall
7 be appointed, they shall severally receive for salary twelve hun-
8 dred dollars per annum; which sums shall be in full compensa-
9 tion for all their services, respectively, and in lieu of forage, ra-
10 tions, pay for servants, and all incidental expenses.

1 *SEC. 5. And be it further enacted,* That said superintendent

2 shall have charge of said school, and of all property belonging to
3 the United States connected therewith and remaining at West
4 Point, and shall be holden responsible for the safe keeping of the
5 same.

1 **SEC. 6.** *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the
2 duty of the Secretary of War to report to Congress, at the next
3 session thereof, and thereafter annually, at the commencement
4 of each session of Congress, a statement of his proceedings under
5 the provisions of this act, and, therewith, a copy of all rules and
6 regulations prescribed for the organization and government of
7 said school, together with a list of the names of the officers and
8 instructors employed therein, the capacity in which each is em-
9 ployed, and the salary paid to them, respectively, and of the
10 names of the officers detailed for instruction, with a designation
11 of the corps to which they belong, respectively, together with
12 such other information relating to the institution as he may
13 think proper to communicate.

1 **SEC. 7.** *And be it further enacted,* That the superintend-
2 ent of said school, together with the assistant instructors there-
3 of, shall constitute a board of examiners, whose duty it shall be
4 to examine publicly all applicants for appointment to office in
5 the army of the United States; who shall, after the organization
6 of said school, present themselves therefor, at the time and place
7 in each year to be designated for that purpose by the rules and

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8 regulations for the government of said school; and all such appli-
9 cants as shall, upon examination by said board, and in compliance
10 with the rules and regulations aforesaid, be found qualified in the
11 several branches of elementary and theoretic knowledge involved
12 in the art of war, to enter upon a course of application and practice
13 of the same as taught at said school, shall be so reported, arranged
14 according to their degrees of proficiency, to the Secretary of War;
15 who shall, of the number, recommend, from time to time, to the
16 President of the United States, for appointment, the number re-
17 quired to fill all vacancies existing in the offices of the army of
18 the United States, regard being had in the selection to their re-
19 spective degrees of proficiency and merit: but said appoint-
20 ments shall at no time interfere with the existing rules of pro-
21 motion in the army.

1 *Sec. 8. And be it further enacted,* That all vacancies that
2 shall hereafter occur in the corps of engineers shall be filled,
3 during the pleasure of the Secretary of War, directed by the
4 President of the United States, from the officers who shall have
5 passed through the course of exercises and practice taught at
6 the school aforesaid, taking for this purpose those who rank high-
7 est for proficiency in the sciences appertaining to the duties of
8 said corps, and in the order of superior merit.

1 *Sec. 9. And be it further enacted,* That the superintend-
2 ent of said school, and each assistant and subordinate officer

3 therein, who shall also be an instructor, shall be removed from
4 his office therein at the pleasure of the President of the United
5 States; but such removal shall not deprive any such officer
6 and instructor of the rank or command to which his commission
7 in the army entitled him at the time of entering upon service
8 at the academy.